

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1-5 and 7-19 and added claims 23-25.

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§102/103:

Claims 1-5, 7-16 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,181,526 to Bell et al. ("Bell").

Claims 6 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bell in view of US2001/0038674 to Trans.

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bell in view of U.S. 5,821,930 to Zavrel.

Claims 1, 7, 9, 13 and 19 are drafted in independent form.

Amendments are made to the independent claims to clarify the present invention. In particular, claim 1 is amended to recite that announcements are broadcast or multicast on "a first level" and "a second level" of a hierarchical structure, and that the first level is lower than the second level. The claim specifies that "data indicating the quantity of announcement information" transmitted on the second level relates to category and quantity of announcements broadcast or multicast on the first level. These amendments are supported by, for example, page 5, lines 10 to 12, page 6, lines 14 to 18, and 28 to 30, page 8, lines 4 to 6, and 21 to 25, and page 9, lines 4 to 8 of the derivative PCT application as filed. Amendments are made to the other independent claims to provide similar clarification. The dependent claims are amended for improved clarity and improved consistency with the other claims. Applicants also take this

opportunity to note that the claims are very similar to claims granted on corresponding European, Russian, Korean, Australian and Chinese applications.

Turning to the prior art rejections, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, as amended is not anticipated by, or obvious in view of, Bell. In Bell, the boxes at the right side of Figure 4 are the lower level information, and the boxes on the left side are the higher level information - see the description of Figure 4, especially at column 6, line 61 to column 7, line 6 of Bell. It is clear that Bell does not disclose sending higher level data including category and quantity data relating to a lower level announcement. With respect to amended claim 1, Bell does not teach or suggest "broadcasting or multicasting one or more announcements on a first level of a hierarchical structure, the one or more announcements relating to a category of an information service" and "broadcasting or multicasting on a second level of the hierarchical structure: data indicating a category to which the one or more announcements transmitted at the first level relate, and data indicating the quantity of announcement information constituting the one or more first level announcements" wherein "the first level is lower than the second level", as required by amended claim 1. Various embodiments of the present invention give rise to many advantages including those explained in the first paragraph on page 4 of the derivative PCT application.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that nothing in the prior art of record would have pointed a person of ordinary skill in the art at the relevant time to modify Bell to arrive at the subject matter of amended claim 1. As such, Applicants respectfully contend that claim 1, as amended, defines a patentable invention having regard to the disclosure of Bell either alone or in combination with any of the other prior art references of record. Claims 7, 9, 13 and 19, as amended, contain features similar to those found in amended claim 1, and thus, are

respectfully asserted to be inventive over Bell for at least the same reasons as set forth above in urging the allowance of claim 1.

Dependent Claims:

Applicants do not believe it necessary at this time to address the rejections of the dependent claims as Applicants believe that the foregoing places the independent claims in condition for allowance. Applicants, however, reserve the right to address those rejections in the future should such a response be deemed necessary and appropriate.

New Claims:

Applicants have added new claims 23-25, which are means-plus-function counterparts to amended claims 7, 13 and 19, respectively. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 23-25 are allowable for at least the same reasons as set forth above in urging the allowance of claims 7, 13 and 19.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that this Application is in condition for allowance for which action is earnestly solicited.

If a telephone conference would facilitate prosecution of this Application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required by this response, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 4208-4233.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 4208-4233.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

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By: _____

Peter N. Fill

Registration No. 38,876

Correspondence Address:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
3 World Financial Center
New York, NY 10281-2101
(212) 415-8700 Telephone
(212) 415-8701 Facsimile